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The Famous and Renowned

HISTORY

OF THE

Unfortunate Lovers,

HERO

AND

LEANDER.

Who ended their Lives in the Sea, for each other.

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THE HISTORY OF Hero *and* Leander.

CHAP. I.

Of Leander's returning in Triumph from his Eastern Victories, falls in love with the beauteous Hero, and she with him.

WHEN Greece flouriſhed the glory of the world, the famed Leander, after many warlike exploits, as General of the Grecian forces, coming back with his victorious army, ſpectators crowded from all parts, to behold him as he paſſed in his triumphal chariot; and amongſt the reſt of the Aſian beauties, the faireſt of her ſex, Hero,

daughter to a Prince, who had a caſtle called Seſtus, on the banks of Helleſpont. She was attired in the richeſt array, in a chariot drawn by four white horſes in ſilver trappings, attended by a train of beautiful virgins; ſo that ſhe appeared like Diana ſurrounded by her nymphs. This object ſoon made Leander fix his eyes upon it with admiration; he wiſhed he might lay his laurels at this lady's feet. When his chariot had paſſed her, he could not but turn his eyes back to behold her. He was going to order his attendants to enquire who ſhe was, but conſidering that his fame and glory would be eclipſed, if, juſt returning from the wars of Mars, he ſhould be ſuſpected to incline to the ſoft tenets of Venus, he deſiſted. So without delay he embarked his victorious army, and ſoon landed ſafe at Abidos, where his father and mother with open arms received him, and all the ſtates of Greece came to congratulate his ſucceſs, proclaiming a ten days feſtival to be held in all their cities.

Leander, during the general rejoicing, diſpoſed his army, and ſettled his military affairs, which done, he thought to betake himſelf to repoſe, after the tediou

tedious toils of war; but the beauteous Hero's image forbade his reſt, employing all his thonghts by day, and filling all his dreams by night.

Mean while Hero was ſo taken up with the thoughts of him, that ſhe abated much of her natural reſt, and nothing pleaſed her but to hear the great actions he had performed, the relation of which was muſic to her ear. She would often aſk Amoriſſa, her nurſe, what ſhe heard of the famous Grecian captain ſince he had paſſed the ſea? This woman being of a ready underſtanding ſoon found that ſhe had more than ordinary concern for him; and reſolved to dive deeper into her thoughts, ſo ſhe urged her many times to tell, why ſhe ſo earneſtly enquired after him, above all other? but ſhe anſwered with either ſilence, or that ſhe did no more in it than every body did of ſo brave a man.

Amoriſſa being one night to watch in the chamber of Hero, whoſe inward fire had been burning too fierce, ſomewhat diſtempered her health, ſhe heard her in her ſlumber cry out, Oh! my Leander, my love! and ſo awoke, with bluſhes on her cheeks, and tears in her eyes. Being told of this by Amoriſſa,

ſhe could no longer deny her love; whereupon ſhe promiſed her beſt aſſiſtance, which ſhe faithfully perform'd.

CHAP. II.

Of Leander's croſſing the Sea to proſecute his Love with Hero, and how he ſaved her and her father from Death.

LOVE having gained a double conqueſt, and both the lovers ignorant of each other's paſſion, Leander grew impatient, and reſolved to go into Aſia as a private perſon, to ſee his beloved miſtreſs. He had not landed long before he heard grievous outcries of people in diſtreſs; whereupon he ſet ſpur to his horſe, being directed to the place by the continued cries, where he found the Prince Armelius, with his back againſt a tree, valiantly defending himſelf againſt nine or ten ruffians. He eaſily perceived who the oppreſſors were, flew among them, and beat all down before him. This put new courage into Armelius and his wounded men, ſo that luſtily laying about them, ſeve

ſeven of the ruffians were killed, and the reſt eſcaped. Armelius had ſcarce time to thank Leander, before he heard the cries of his daughter, whom others of this rout were carrying away; he therefore beſought Leander to endeavour her reſcue; who turned his horſe to follow, and ſoon overtook them; but how great was his amazement when he found this lady to be the beauteous Hero. He immediately fell upon thoſe ruffians, dying his ſword with their blood; and the trembling lady almoſt died away to ſee ſuch fatal ſtrokes every one of which brought death to one or other of them. So that deſpairing to carry off their precious prize, which defended by one whom they ſuppoſed to be more than man, thoſe that could, fled.

By this time Armelius was come up, and ſeeing Hero reſcued, he would have fallen at the feet of her deliverer; but he generouſly withheld him from doing it, alledging, he had done nothing but what all good and juſt men ought to do in ſuch caſes, to reſcue the oppreſſed, and puniſh the oppreſſor.

But his mind was perplexed for Hero, who by the fright was fallen into

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a ſwoon, but reviving at length, ſhe was put into a chariot that ſtood by the foreſt ſide, and conveyed to the caſtle of Seſtus. Leander was in this encounter unknown to Hero, by reaſon his face was covered with blood. Armelius entreated him to go with them to the caſtle, to which he ſeeming conſented, but it growing dark, he took an opportunity in the crowd, to withdraw himſelf, till he might better conſider to manage his love affairs, and ſo went that night to a neighbouring village, where he refreſhed himſelf; and preſenting the maſter of the houſe with ſome jewels, deſired him not to let any one know he was there, if enquiry was made which he promiſed and performed.

CHAP. III.

Of Leander's jeſting before the Princeſs and won a rich Diadem, which he preſented to Hero, with a Letter in it; and of overthrowing a number of men that lay in ambuſh to take away his life.

HERO having recovered her health made enquiry after her deliverer

and when she was told he had withdrawn himself, her eyes could not refrain from tears, that she had not opportunity to thank him for her deliverance; yet more, she could not but wonder who this gallant stranger might be; sometimes she thought it could be none but the same Leander but those thoughts were again dashed with the consideration that he had passed over to Europe, and was taken up with the welcome of his triumph. During these cogitations great shew of joy was used in the castle for the happy deliverance; and at the end of them, a solemn tournament was ordered, wherein he that did best was to have a golden coronet set with diamonds, and other precious jewels; which glorious sport of martial prowess was proclaimed by the heralds, and it soon reached Leander's ears; whereon he provided himself with a change of armour, having in his shield a flaming heart, on which the sun darted some rays through clouds, with this inscription, She for whom I suffer is ignorant of my love.

Leander thus accoutred, come to the lists just as the trumpets were sounding, found divers champions in readiness, who

who, upon the ſignal run two and two together, and broke their lances with divers ſucceſs, many being laid in the duſt; but above all, the Prince of Perſepolis, who was enamour'd of Hero, and to whom her father deſigned to wed her, altho' he was a man of an ill temper, unhorſed all that came near him, 'till Leander, who had all this while ſtood ſtill, entered the liſts, and demanded the combat againſt him; they no ſooner encountered, but the Prince was overthrown; which diſgrace ſome of his followers attempting to retrieve, run the ſame riſk; ſo that in the end, the prize was adjuſted to Leander. The prize being delivered, Leander laid it at Hero's feet, telling her, That above all the world, ſhe alone was worthy of ſo fair a diadem. She modeſtly refuſed it, ſaying, It was the prize of his valour.—But he urging that her beauty had made him accompliſh what otherwiſe he was not capable of doing; ſhe at laſt declared, She would keep it for his ſake——Prince Armelius was well pleaſed with it, as imagining this ſtranger could be no other than his gallant deliverer. Whereupon he ſent a Lord to invite him into th

the hall, to a ſumptuous entertainment there prepared; but Leander, who had his face all the while covered, and not yet willing to diſcloſe himſelf, returned his humble thanks, and deſired to be excuſed, ſaying, He had obliged himſelf by promiſe, to return as ſoon as the ſports were over.

This ſpeech ſatisfied the Prince, in that he ever held dear, that a man of honour is tied to his word. But the Prince of Perſepolis inwardly grieving that this ſtranger ſhould carry away the prize and glory of the day, and fearing he might prove his rival in the fair Hero's affections, it rais'd in him a mortal hatred againſt Leander, and watching his departure, he ſent twelve of his followers to murder him.

Theſe men planted themſelves in a wood he was to paſs, and altogether uſhed upon him with their drawn words. But he, who was never uſed o fear, not at all daunted, drew his uſty ſword, and ſet on them with ſuch ury. that eleven of them reſigned their reath almoſt in a moment, and the o- her fell on his knees, and begged his ife, which Leander generouſly gave, n his ſubmiſſion and confeſſion, at

which

which Leander could not but wonder how any nobleman could be guilty of such baseneſs; and then commanding him to riſe, Go, wretched man, ſaid he, and tell thy maſter, that treachery never proſpers, and that I wear a ſword that may one day let him ſee the difference between manhood and ſuch inglorious acts as theſe.

The trembling man went away with thankfulneſs, and related the miſcarriage to the Prince of Perſepolis; who went almoſt mad to find his project diſconcerted.

CHAP. IV.

The anſwer Hero ſent to Leander. Of his killing a wild Beaſt and ſaving Amoriſa, was ſent in ſearch of him.

HERO having received the diadem from Leander, as ſhe was ſurveying it, perceived a letter, which was to this purpoſe:

Faireſt of Creatures,

"It is not without cauſe, that all who caſt their eyes on you, become lovers

nd admirers of your noble perfections
Pardon me then, if amongſt the reſt, I
ave preſumed to gaze on ſo bright an
bject, which has not only dazzled my
yes, but penetrated the heart of him,
ho can no louger call himſelf his own,
ut muſt beg leave to ſubſcribe himſelf,
Your entirely devoted LEANDER.

Hero ſeeing the name of Leander
refixed to this letter, was overjoyed,
nd Amoriſſa coming in, and finding
er in diſorder, was inquiſitive into the
auſe; but ſeeing the letter which He-
had in her hand, ſhe ſoon knew the
aſon, and joined in her miſtreſs's joy.
ut they were much at a loſs how to
nvey an anſwer to him; at length A-
oriſſa offered her ſervice to go in ſearch
him, which Hero accepted, and
erefore tendered her love to him in
e following words:

SIR.

"Though you are a ſtranger, with
hom I never had any converſation, yet
e fame of Leander's virtues and re-
wned deeds cannot but have reached
e ears of Hero, and created in her an
eem for ſo deſerving a perſon. But
w you could conceive ſo great a paſ-
ſion

ſion as you expreſſed in your letter, up-
ſo ſlight a view, I cannot haſtily be-
lieve. If I miſtake not, I owe my life,
liberty, and honour, which is dearer
to me than both, to your valour; and
therefore, in gratitude return you my
thanks. The reſt I leave to the bearer,
in whom you may entirely repoſe any
confidence; and ſo take leave to ſub-
ſcribe myſelf, Your's in friendſhip and
good wiſhes. HERO

Amoriſia directly ſet out on this
ſearch, and paſſing through the wood
where the fight had been, a monſter
came terrible roaring, who had ſcented
the blood of the ſlain, was making to-
wards them, but upon hearing her
horſe, he followed it, which made her
double her ſpeed; yet he continued the
purſuit, making a terrible howling
which pierced the ears of Leander, as
he was ſitting to refreſh himſelf; where
upon, clapping on his helmet, he came
towards the place, and ſeeing a woman
flying before a monſtrous beaſt he drew
his ſword, which he had ſcarce time to
do, e'er the monſter came ſo near as to
make a leap at her, which made her
through fear, fall from her horſe in a
ſwoon, ſo that miſſing her, he tore the
hor

horſe in a ſhocking manner, before Leander could give him a full ſtroke, which however, at length he did, piercing his breaſt, ſo that he fell down dead. Leander then came to Amoriſſa demanding what adventure had brought her there? She looking at him, knew him to be the ſame who won the prize at Seſtus, and the man ſhe was upon ſearch for, whereon ſhe delivered him the letter; the Reading of which put him into a perfect extacy.

CHAP. V.

Hero and Leander's meeting, and knitting the Bond that ended their Lives.

IT was at length agreed between Leander and Amoriſſa, that he ſhould go and ſee Hero; ſo mounted her behind him, ſo away they Rode through all the by-paths, till they came to a little country lodge, at the bottom of the palace-garden, to which Hero in the cool of the evening uſed to reſort.—— Here ſhe left Leander, and going to her miſtreſs, told her all that happened, who

who, in a diſguiſe, paſſed towards the lodge. She took a turn or two in the walks, and coming near the lodge, he ventured out, and falling at her feet, thus expreſſed himſelf: *Pardon me, divineſt of creatures, if I thus preſume to proſtrate myſelf before you, in hopes that ſo much goodneſs can pardon.*——He would have proceeded, but Hero entreated him to Riſe, and Amoriſſa adviſed them to go into an arbour, leſt any private eyes ſhould perceive them. Here being ſeated, Hero ſaid, She hoped he would not miſconſtrue her actions, in being ſo forward, ſince, in gratitude ſhe could do no leſs, ſeeing he had been her deliverer; but as to granting her love, which he earneſtly requeſted, ſhe muſt take longer time to conſider of it, and to know her parents pleaſure, to which ſhe was reſolved ever to pay the moſt ſubmiſſive obedience. Hereupon it was reſolved that he ſhould the next day make his public appearance at Seſtus, and endeavour to gain her father's conſent.

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CHAP. VI.

The Treachery of the Prince of Perſepolis, in oppoſing Leander's Love. Hero's Father entertains him with Joy, yet denies his conſent, in favour of Perſepolis.

THE beſt and moſt conſtant of lovers having had this mutual ſatisfaction of an interview, and in their hearts inſeparably linked by the chains of love; Hero and Amoriſſa retire, and Leander reſolved to take up his abode, ſeeing the ſun was near ſet, in that lodge, till the next morning.

Day approaching, he laid his armour in a ſafe place, and took only his horſe and went to the caſtle of Seſtus, where the bridge being down and the gates open, he entered, and took him a ſecret lodging in a little houſe, in the remoteſt place, where Amoriſſa often viſited him, and divers letters paſſed between him and his fair miſtreſs, and ſometimes he was privately let into her lodgings, where, in the end, their hearts became firmly united, that Hero at length reſolved

..olved, that if she could not gain h
father's consent, she would witho
farther delay marry Leander, and g
with him over to Greece, where, b
sides his castle, he had large lands an
territories; but as she thought to do i
and just going to speak of the matter, h
rather prevented it, by laying co
mands upon her to entertain Altema
for's love, with which she had a lo
time persecuted, but ever slighted an
despised; he laid before her the adva
tage of such an alliance, the Power a
Riches of that Prince, and many oth
matters; but she answered him o
with tears and entreaties, that she mig
not have a man she could not affe
this made the old man in a great Rag
protesting not only to disown her, b
disinherit her for ever if she disobey
him. This news she sent to Leand
in a letter, all blotted with her tea
which made him for a time like a m
beside himself; but resolving to haza
all for his mistress, he concluded to
pear like himself, and demand or d
pute her against Altemansor; and so
the most Rich attire which he sent
out of Greece, he appeared one of t
most goodly persons that had ever be

een in the court; so that all admired who this stranger should be, till Hero's father one day casting his eyes upon him as he passed by, run to him with tears in his eyes, crying out, O my deliverer! my good angel! have I found you again? How is it that you left us, after that you had saved our lives from a death that was so near us?

Leander made modest excuses on this account, saying, It was more than in honour he ought to have done. And if the old man was transported, now he was the more abundantly so, when he knew it was Prince Leander, he carried him to the palace, shewed him all his rarities, and made great feasting for several days desiring him to demand whatever was in his power to oblige him and he would do it for him.

Leander thinking this was the happy hour, said, Sir, for all the favours you have done me, and for the offers you have made me, I return you my most humble thanks; there is but one thing in the world I desire of you, and if I could but think you would grant me that, I would freely demand in.

Demand then, said he, boldly, & whatever it is, expect it. Then it is, said Leander, with your leave, to serve the Princess Hero. At which the King started and looked

looked pale, protesting had he not alread promised her to Altamansor, there was n man under heaven that he would more glad ly have bestowed her on than Leander, whos fame and worth had sufficiently spread ove Asia and Europe; but having sworn to giv her to him before the high alter he could no go back from his word; or if he should, h being powerful in those parts, would tak her by force, and lay his inheritance waste but Leander told him, That should never b while he wore a sword; but no entreatie could prevail with him for his consent, an Hero having promised to die rather tha marry any but Leander, though she stoo stifly upon her obedience. Leander knew not what to think, but coming to his fai mistress, very sad and pensive, who there upon hung about his neck, all overflowin with tears, and gave him fresh assurance o her love and constancy, on which he to her the treachery of Altemansor, and th neither himself nor she were safe on th shore, bnt if she would go with him t Greece secretly, he would marry her royal there; but she still insisted upon her obed ence, and told him, That time might moti her father's heart.

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CHAP. VII.

How Prince Altemanſor ſuborned one to poiſon Leander, but was prevented. How Altemanſor coming to aſſaſſinate, was ſlain by Leander, who was forced to ſwim the Helleſpont, while Hero was confined in a Tower, whither guided by a Light, he often viſited her by Night; and attempting to fetch her away, was drowned, on which ſhe jumped into the Sea and periſhed alſo.

BY this time the news of Leander's coming to court being known to Altemanſor, the perſon that had eſcaped having told him it was the ſame that overthrew him at the tournament, and deſtroyed his men in the Wood, he was greatly enraged, but when he had ſecret notice he pretended love to the Princeſs, he imputed all the rigorous uſage of Hero towards him, ariſing from the love ſhe had to this new come ſtranger; and therefore ſeeing open force failed, he reſolved that ſecret miſchief ſhould take place; and ſo with a great ſum of gold, hired one of Leander's ſervants (that he had

had newly hired to poiſon him with a glaſs of wine. But as ſoon as he was putting it towards his lips, it flew to pieces, on which the wretch, ſeeing the treachery diſcovered, fell on his knees, begging pardon, and diſcloſed the whole matter; upon which this and the former treachery was publiſhed to the diſgrace and anger of Altemanſor. Hero's father was much diſpleaſed with this and ſent ſharply to reprove him, which made him rage the more, and vow revenge yet knowing Leander to be a prince of great courage, and having ſufficiently tried his ſtrength, he durſt not challenge him to the combat, but thought if he could any way deſtroy him, it would open hi way to Hero's love; wherefore one night he broke into his lodgings, with about twenty men which creating ſome noiſe, Leander, who had not time to put on his cloaths, got his ſword, and defended himſelf ſo well, that he killed the Prince, and moſt of his followers; which ſo alarmed the caſtle, that they were up in arms, when Leander fearing to be oppoſed, or that revenge would be taken for this proud Prince, made good his retreat with the ſlaughter of his enemies, and getting to a window that jutted over the ſea, leaped into the waves, and directing his courſe by the ſtars, ſwam. full

revenge to Greece, and safely arrived at Abydos. He thought for these many treacheries to have brought over a powerful army, and to have spoiled Persepoli. but the secresy of his love, and desire not more to offend Hero's father, who was already outrageous for the death of Altemanjor, he desisted that resolve. He sent a servant to see how things were, who brought word back, That Hero was confined in a little tower close by the sea. He immediately got some of his servants to row him over the Hellespont and having got to a window where he could converse with her, he entreated her to go to Greece with him, to which, with much entreaty she consented; and therefore dispatched him to get a vessel to carry her and Amorissa, while she prepared her jewels and apparel. He soon got one fit for his purpose but while he was on shore, making some preparations for her acceptance, a dreadful storm arose at sea, which tore the ship from her mooring, and drove her out with the men on board. Leander going down the breach, found it impossible for that vessel to return, or to get another, and seeing a light in Hero's window, by which it was signified she expected him, he resolved at all hazards to go to her, so plunging himself

amidst

amidst the waves, he for some time kept them at defiance, till at last, being dashed against the rocks, he was obliged to resign his breath, a pattern to all true lovers in after ages.

Hero, who had all that night been watching, wishing, yet fearing, he should come, looked out as soon as it was light; and there, floating on the waves, she beheld the body of her dear Leander. But oh! what words can paint the horrors of her mind at this sad sight! In the most bitter anguish she rent her beautiful tresses, railing with doleful accents against her unpropitious fate! At length her grief a little subsiding, calling tenderly on his name, she leaped out of the window, her nurse not being able to restrain her. Soon after they were drove ashore, arm in arm, and were magnificently interred in one grave.

Hero's father soon after died, his heart being broke with grief that he had behaved with so much cruelty to these most faithful lovers.

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